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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
08/923,369	09/03/1997	SHIGEAKI KOIKE	SONY-C5757	2545
29175	7590	11/05/2003	EXAMINER	
BELL, BOYD & LLOYD, LLC P. O. BOX 1135 CHICAGO, IL 60690-1135			BOCCIO, VINCENT F	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	2615		
DATE MAILED: 11/05/2003				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	08/923,369	KOIKE ET AL.
	Examiner Vincent F. Boccio	Art Unit 2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 October 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

4) Claim(s) 10, 12, 13, 16, 25 and 28-30 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 10, 12, 13, 16, 25 and 28-30 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 08/563,188.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

In response to Amendment F on 10/6/2003 and RCE.

AMENDMENT F on 10/6/2003

Amendment F claim 17, has been removed from consideration,

- o since introduced on 9/2/1998 Amendment B; and
- o further canceled by applicant in Amendment C on 2/22/1999,

therefore, all arguments against claim 17 are considered to be moot in view thereof.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

2. Claims 10, 12-13, 16, 25, 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lang (US 5,164,839) and Takada et al. (US 5,715,104) in view of Honjo (US 5,432,769).

Regarding claims 10, 12-13, 16, 25 and 28-30, the combination as applied further reads on the amendment independent claims 10 and 16, wherein the combination as applied further

meets the limitations of:

an analog video interface (Lang provides for receiving and reproducing analog signals Fig. 2, for example or

Takada further provides for receiving and reproducing analog signals Fig. 3, for example);

a digital video interface (Lang provides for receiving and reproducing digital signals, Fig. 2, for example, also Takada further provides for receiving and reproducing digital signals Fig. 3, for example),

wherein a signal processing means for converting analog to digital and digital to analog, are also met by the combination as applied (Lang Fig. 2, "24 and 25", or Tanaka Fig. 3, "751 and 756"),

wherein Lang as applied provides for a processor adapted to switch between the analog and digital input signals from and to the analog and digital sources,

routing the signals as desired, between the Tape and Disk recording sections,

wherein signals received in the analog section can be converted to digital and stored on disk 13 and signals from disk 13 can be converted to analog and output (Lang section 12 etc., further reference Fig. 4, which the Figs. provide for routing/switching signals to and from desired inputs and outputs) switching signals the transfer circuit is met by the combination

as applied wherein signals from the analog section can be routed, digitalized and stored in memory 13, wherein signals from memory 13 can be converted then routed back to the analog section (col. 11), no matter the origination (input as analog or digital), of the signals.

Regarding the independent dependent claim limitations, the examiner incorporates by reference from the last office action all reasoning for all previous rejected claims, since there is no change.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 10/6/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding the presented arguments, since new limitations, refer to the rejection as presented above, as applied.

Contact Fax Information

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314, (for formal communication intended for entry)

or:

(703) 308-5359, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Contact Information

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications should be directed to the examiner of record, Monday-Thursday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Vincent F. Boccio (703) 306-3022.

If any attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiners supervisor, Andy Christensen (703) 308-9644.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to Customer Service (703) 306-0377.

Primary Examiner, Boccio, Vin
November 3, 2003



VINCENT BOCCIO
PRIMARY EXAMINER